

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi & Leader McCarthy,

Like so many American business sectors, the hardwood industry has been particularly hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many companies reporting declines of 50 percent or more. The pandemic has brought additional distress to this industry, which was already facing uncertainty and challenges as a result of U.S.-China trade negotiations.

We appreciate and thank you for your past leadership and support in recognizing hardwood as an essential industry and ensuring its eligibility to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which has provided critical support as it struggled to remain operational during the COVID-19 crisis.

The U.S. hardwood industry is fully integrated from logging to manufacturing finished consumer goods including flooring, cabinets, and moldings. The tissue and paper supplies made of residual chips and dust and the industrial mats, shipping pallets, and railway ties made from hardwood lumber play a crucial role in helping our economy recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19. Specifically, the hardwood industry is responsible for approximately 1.8 million jobs in mostly rural areas.

As an additional relief package is considered, we ask you to consider including the following recommendations to support this struggling industry:

- Ensure any liability protection reforms are extended to the hardwood and forest products industry;
- Direct the Small Business Administration to reverse its decision to limit Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to \$150,000. Existing law authorizes EIDL loans of up to \$2 million which is essential to the hardwood industry;
- Extend a sustainable building tax credit to building and construction projects, including U.S. wood products used in these projects;
- Increase government purchases of U.S. wood products, including structural and finished products, for federal building and transportation projects;
- Fund necessary research to approve increased use of U.S. hardwoods in U.S. military truck beds, replacing imported tropical woods;
- Provide funding for research to increase domestic and international consumer demand for U.S. hardwood products including the environmental and home health benefits of hardwood product use.

Again, thank you for your efforts to lead our nation's economic recovery. We appreciate your consideration of these measures in any future COVID-19 relief legislation.

Sincerely,



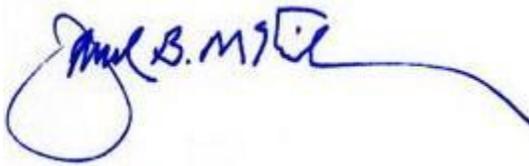
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Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



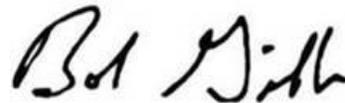
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



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Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress